



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

*Office
List
9/7/51*

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release SEPTEMBER 6, 1951

KEEP ALERT FOR "FLYING ORANGES" FWS ASKS
OF SOUTHEASTERN DOVE HUNTERS

If you see or shoot a brilliant red, orange, blue, or green mourning dove during the 1951 hunting season, don't blame it on your eyesight--just remove the dove's metal leg band and forward it to the Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C., or to your nearest conservation official.

The bird will be one of the new "rainbow doves" that has been dipped in aniline dye solution. When released, its bright plumage will advertise to hunters and others the importance of returning the leg band to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Because 157 doves were colored a flaming orange at Apalachicola, Florida, they were called, "flying oranges". Birds dipped in red dye in the southeastern part of the State were dubbed, "flying strawberries".

To stimulate public interest and collect more scientific facts in bird-banding recoveries, color dyeing of mourning doves, already successfully launched in Florida, will be used this fall by other southeastern States, which are cooperating in the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Program, according to Director Albert M. Day of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

This method of publicity will promote a better knowledge of migration movements within State boundaries and between States. They are not too well known at present.

From late summer to the opening of the hunting season, Kentucky will dip their doves in purple dyes in the southwestern section of the State. Tennessee chose red to emblazon doves trapped at Shelby County Penal Farm near Memphis. Mississippi will use blue dye in the Parchman area, while Louisiana intends to color their birds with a bright green especially in the western section of the State. Texas, also, will do dove coloring.

After the program gets under way, much additional information on mourning dove movements in southeastern States and eastern Texas should be gathered by researchers. A better basis for setting hunting regulations will give the hunter his reward for reporting the spotting or shooting of "rainbow doves".

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